

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a funding bill that includes a total of \$250,000 for Western Massachusetts Enterprise Fund (WMEF) in Greenfield.

This funding will support WMEF's efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and business owners in western Massachusetts.

Olver secured the funding in the FY10 Financial Services Appropriations Bill, which the House passed on July 16, 2009. Olver is on the Appropriations Committee and worked to secure the funding. The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciled bill before it goes to the president's desk to be signed into law. Congressman John Olver said, "For nearly twenty years, WMEF has provided much needed capital in our region to develop and strengthen small businesses. Given the current state of the economy, their work is more important now than ever."

Western Massachusetts Enterprise Fund, Inc. (WMEF) provides loans and technical assistance to microenterprises, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations in western Massachusetts that do not qualify for traditional financing. The WMEF service area is the First and Second Massachusetts Congressional Districts, which include: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties and parts of Worcester, Middlesex, and Norfolk counties.

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